

REMARKS

Status

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated February 9, 2005, in which Claims 1-54 were rejected. Claims 1, 19, and 37 are amended in the Application. Claims 1-54 are pending in the Application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

35 USC 103 -- Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 7-11, 13, 15, 19, 25-29, 31, 33, 37, 43-47, 49, and 51 under USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bresler* (6,115,140) in view of *Lin* (5,553,171). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended Claims 1, 19, and 37 to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 1, 19, and 37 have been amended to claim the feature of passing the adjusted halftone binary bitmap directly to a proofing system. Support for these amendments can be found in the paragraph beginning on Page 14, Line 17 of the Specification as filed and in Figure 5. Applicant believes no new matter has been added with these amendments.

In the current art, any proof made with a bitmap file that is used to make the plate is incorrect. The Applicant's method provides a solution to this problem in that the formed bitmaps are passed directly to the proofing system bypassing a dot-gain correction box (See Paragraph beginning on Page 14, Line 17). The bitmap file is formed by the novel inclusion of the step of sampling additional sets of multilevel pixels at a preset sample rate identifying a set of sampled multilevel pixels (See paragraph beginning on Page 13, Line 30 of the Specification as filed). Further, the adjusted bitmap file is formed by the novel inclusion of the step of inputting the set of sampled multilevel pixels to a lookup table to create an output that is a threshold level for the set of sampled multilevel pixels.

Bresler provides a manner for color converting a halftone or bitmap image according to a desired color conversion. The desired color conversion entails converting the halftone to a continuous tone and using the continuous tone as a guide to interpolate between the dilated and halftone images (See Column 3, Line 38 through Column 4, Line 4, Line 5). *Bresler* does not teach sampling additional sets of multilevel pixels at a preset sample rate identifying a set of sampled multilevel pixels and, then, inputting the set of sampled multilevel pixels to a lookup table to create an output that is a threshold level for the set of sampled multilevel pixels.

The use of additional sets of multilevel pixels in the Applicant's method provides an accurate dot-gain adjustment. The dot-gain adjustments required to add to the percent dot into the dot-gain on bitmaps in the correction box are calculated by finding or calculating the percent dot input value resulting in a percent dot output value on the benchmark proof required to achieve the percent dot output value on the target press sheet. The applied dot-gain adjustment using the second set of multilevel pixels allows the bitmap to be used to make a correct proof.

Applicant believes that *Lin* is a method for converting the resolution of a binary image signal. *Lin* teaches re sampling a filtered gray image to produce a second resolution (Column 5, Lines 1-5), but the sampling is of frequencies rather than dot-gain adjustments of multilevel pixels. *Lin* does not add the missing element from *Bresler* of sampling additional sets of multilevel pixels at a preset sample rate and *Lin* is not used to create adjusted halftone binary bitmaps that can be passed directly to a proofing system. Rather, *Lin* is used to convert grey image signals to a desired resolution.

Claims 7-11, 13, 15, 25-29, 31, 33, 43-47, 49, and 51 are dependent on either independent Claims 1, 19, or 37, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to the independent claim, Claims 7-11, 13, 15, 25-29, 31, 33, 43-47, 49, and 51 are also believed to be patentable. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims in view of the amendments and expressed remarks.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 12, 14, 16-18, 30, 32, 34-36, 48, 50, and 52-54 under USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bresler* (6,115,140) in view of *Lin* (5,553,171) in further view of *Eschbach* (5,208,871). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant believes the amended claimed subject matter of Claims 1, 19, and 37 of the current application has been distinguished from the teachings *Bresler* in view of *Lin* as noted above. Applicant believes that *Eschbach* is a method of preparing an image for printing capable of printing sports responsive to optical densities. *Eschbach* teaches sampling a halftone bitmap file that takes into account resolution, size, and orientation of the bitmap file (Column 3, Lines 1-49) in order to eliminate artifacts in a converted image. *Eschbach* does not teach the missing element from *Bresler* and *Lin* of sampling additional sets of multilevel pixels at a

preset sample rate and *Eschbach* is not used to create adjusted halftone binary bitmaps that can be passed directly to a proofing system.

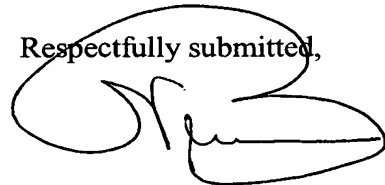
The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 12, 14, 16-18, 30, 32, 34-36, 48, 50, and 52-54 are dependent on either independent Claims 1, 19, or 37, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to the independent claims, The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 12, 14, 16-18, 30, 32, 34-36, 48, 50, and 52-54 are also believed to be patentable. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims in view of the amendments and expressed remarks.

Summary

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.